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Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 28 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from the Government of the Republic of Guinea, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following:

1. As part of the intense fight being waged by the Government of Guinea against drug cartels and their connection to national and international crime, during the period 14 to 25 July 2009, representatives of the Ministry in charge of special services and the fight against drugs and organized crime discovered in several sites in Conakry, the capital, significant quantities of toxic chemical products which had been illegally imported and transferred.

2. These chemical products were analyzed at the Quality Control Laboratory and were found to be extremely dangerous and to have a toxic effect on the health of the population near the storage sites. They are considered to be precursors used in the manufacture of explosives and narcotics (see annex).

3. The stockpiles of materials and chemical products and the pipes stored in various places are indicative, moreover, of a criminal intent to establish large-scale clandestine laboratories in Guinea for the manufacture and potential large-scale illegal distribution of drugs.

4. Since the Republic of Guinea has limited capacity and resources to combat drugs, it urgently appeals through the Secretary-General of the Organization to the international community, and in particular to the relevant United Nations programmes and bodies for the emergency implementation of effective support for Guinea in this critical phase of its peaceful and consensual evolution towards the holding of free and democratic legislative and presidential elections before the end of 2009.

5. The Guinean authorities are counting on the support of United Nations officials and bodies to counter drug trafficking and other criminal and terrorist activities, in order to rid Guinea of these chemical products, which are a continuing source of pollution and a threat to public health during the current rainy season.

* A/64/150.

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Please recycle

The Government of Guinea would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 104 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alpha Ibrahima **Sow**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Analysis report
Ministry of Public Health and Hygiene — Republic of Guinea

National Public Health Institute — Labour-Justice-Solidarity

Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry
(National Quality Control Laboratory)

Conakry, 20 July 2009

Technical Regulatory Analysis Report

In reference to seven samples of chemical products found on 15 July 2009 by the State Secretariat for Special Services and the Fight against Drugs and Organized Crime at two distribution sites near the sea in the GBessia Port and Yimbaya Port districts.

The samples were of the following chemical products:

1. Methyl ethyl ketone
2. Acetone
3. Ammonia 24.5 per cent
4. Hexane isomers
5. Sodium carbonate
6. Organic fertilizer
7. Methyl chloride

RESULTS

1. FINDINGS

1.1 Methyl/ethyl/ketone

Weight: 270 kg
Volume: 337.5 l (density d=0.80)
Date manufactured: No date
Expiration date: None
Country of origin: Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire
Lot No: No number
Packaging: Metal casks
Label: skull and crossbones, the word "poison" and underneath:

IMCO: 6,1 UN 1593; AI/XI.8/250/07;
B/BLO-852003;
149N/13:04;

On the stopper the words "Please empty completely" followed by the instruction "protect nature" in German, English and French.

1.2 Acetone

Weight: 160 kg
Physical form: Liquid

Volume: 161,616 l (density d=0.99)
Date manufactured: 09/2008
Expiration date: None
Country of origin: Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire
Lot No: 04026
Packaging: Metal casks
Label: "Flammable" and the following:

IMCO: 3 UNNR.1090
1,65
V8 11/0333/05/FE 40
UNI AI/X/250/07

Polychimie Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire

Printed on the stopper the words "Please empty completely", followed by the instruction "protect nature" in German, English and French.

1.3 Hexane isomers

Net weight: 137 kg
Physical form: Liquid
Volume: 207,57 l (density d=0.66)
Date manufactured: 09/2008
Expiration date: EXP N/A
Country of origin: Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire
Lot No: 64041
Packaging: Metal casks
Label: "Flammable" and the following:
Polychimie Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire

IMCO: 3 UN1208
UN1 A1/Y1.4/150/NL
JO: 08/RL 259
1A1/X1, 5/250/03

Printed on the stopper the words "Please empty completely", followed by the instruction "protect nature" in German, English and French.

1.4 Organic fertilizer

Net weight: 40 kg
Volume: Powder
Colour: Cement
Date manufactured: No date
Expiration date: None
Country of origin: Not specified
Lot No: No number
Packaging: Cream-coloured paper bearing the words "Compostion garantizada"

Nitrogen N	12 per cent
Phosphorous P2O5	9 per cent
Potassium K2O	20 per cent
Calcium Ca	10 per cent
Magnesium Mo	4 per cent

Iron Fe	0.9 per cent
Copper Co	2530 ppm
Manganese Mn	85 ppm
Zinc Zo	176 ppm

Peso al ampacar (weight at time of packing): 40 kg

220204.19A
SP@LAS
Tel 417222 LIC FAB No. 1643

1.5 Sodium carbonate

Net weight: 40 kg
Physical form: powder
Colour: snow white
Date manufactured: No date
Expiration: No date
Country of origin: Not specified
Lot No: None
Packaging: white paper bearing the following words: "irritant"

207-838-8
EC-LABEL
000 :31.24 :06 :08

1.6 Ammonia 24.5 per cent

Volume: 25 litres
Physical form: Fuming liquid, highly corrosive
Date manufactured: No date
Expiration date: None
Country of origin: Not specified
Lot No: No number
Packaging: black PVC drums
UN2672

1.7 Methyl chloride

Weight: 270 kg
Physical form: Liquid
Volume: 203,00 l (density 1.33)
Date manufactured: 09/2008
Expiration date: None
Country of origin: Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire
Lot No: 64041
Packaging: Metal casks
Label: Skull and crossbones, the word "poison" and underneath
Polychimie S A Abidjan/Côte d'Ivoire
IMCO: 6.1 UN.1593

2. INTERPRETATION

At the request of the State Secretariat for Special Services and the Fight against Drugs and Organized Crime, acting on instructions from the Minister of Public Health and Hygiene, the National Quality Control Laboratory analysed the chemical products and made the following observations:

- The place where the products were stored and the conditions under which they were stored are not conducive to practical sampling (handling is dangerous);

- The covers of the casks containing methyl/ethyl/ketone, acetone, hexane isomers and methyl chloride all have a picture of a masked man wearing protective gear;

- Clearly printed on these same covers is the following warning: "Please empty container completely" followed by the instruction: "Protect nature" written in German, English and French;

- According to written instructions, when these products are manufactured industrially, the entire system is sealed off so as to ensure that the workers have no contact with the products — this is to ensure their safety;

- On the casks, the most important markings, following the name of the chemical, are the following:

  1. Skull and crossbones, followed by the word "poison"

  2. Flammable

  3. Please empty completely

  4. Protect nature (in German, English and French)

  5. Sodium carbonate is followed by the warning "irritant", "resembles cooking salt" with all the consequences that this may have when it falls into the hands of the population;

- Ammonia 24.5 per cent is fuming, corrosive, toxic and dangerous;

- Organic fertilizer contains various elements and its packaging resembles cement.

Nitrogen N 12 per cent, phosphorous P2O5 9 per cent, Potassium K2O 20 per cent, Calcium Ca 10 per cent

Magnesium Mo 4 per cent, Iron Fo .9 per cent, Copper Co 2530 ppm, Manganese Mn 85 ppm, Zinc Zo 176 ppm

All these dangerous products are synthesized in order to make other laboratory products in accordance with the regulations.

They can also be used to make explosives; since hexane isomers, acetone, methyl/ethyl/ketone, methyl chloride and ammonia are powerful organic solvents used both for extraction and for purification of such things as essential oils, the fact that they were found together suggests that the plan was to manufacture drugs. They are also called precursors in the manufacture of drugs in the context of clandestine laboratories. Moreover, the second storage place (Yimbaya port) is an operating clandestine laboratory; the fact that an arsenal of materials and chemical products were found on this site testifies to this. Moreover, the fact that pipes were being stored in a shop at Gbessia port suggests that there were plans to set up clandestine laboratories on a large scale.

3. CONCLUSION

The chemicals analysed by the National Quality Control Laboratory at the request of the State Secretariat for Special Services and the Fight against Drugs and Organized

Crime, acting on instructions from the Minister of Public Health and Hygiene, are dangerous products, which have a highly toxic effect on the health of the population near the storage sites, the fact that they were all found in strange places, suggests that the major international drug manufacturing and trafficking and explosives manufacturing cartels have networks in the area.

Their presence in these populated areas poses a major threat to the health of the inhabitants; the latter may be exposed to fumes which may lead to chronic poisoning (incurable cancers ...).

These chemicals are precursors in the manufacture of drugs and explosives by clandestine laboratories. This poses a real threat for the entire country (drug addiction, organized crime and terrorism) and should be taken seriously.

(*Signed*) Dr. Thierno Fatoumata Oury **Diallo**
Director of the Laboratory